

Application No.: 10/783,107
Preliminary amendment dated: May 20, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0039] with the following amended paragraph:

[0039] It was determined from experiments that, when the anti-rewetting layer 40 is made of nylon, its thickness is desirably in the range of 20 to ~~50 m~~ 50 μ m, and its elongation at break is desirably 300% or more.

Please replace paragraph [0074] with the following amended paragraph:

[0074] To establish equivalent conditions for the examples and the comparative examples, the basic structure of all the felts was as follows:

Base body: plain weave of twisted yarn of nylon mono-filament, with basis weight of 300g/m²

Batt layer: staple fiber of nylon 6 with total basis weight of 550g/m²

Needle punching density: 1000 times /cm²

Needle: point 51 having R= 0.075mm at the tip; triangular cross section; and barbs 52a formed in every edge 52.

Example 1

Anti-rewetting layer 40: non-oriented film made of nylon

Elongation at break: 500%

Thickness: ~~25~~ 25 μ

Shape of opening 44: funnel

Permeability: 5cc/cm²/sec

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Example 2

Anti-rewetting layer 40: non-oriented film made of nylon

Elongation at break: 300%

Thickness: ~~25~~: 25 μ

Shape of opening 44: funnel

Permeability: 6cc/cm²/ sec

Comparative Example 1

Anti-rewetting layer 40: biaxially oriented film of nylon

Elongation at break: 125%

Thickness: ~~25~~: 25 μ

Shape of opening 44: funnel, but a tear in the direction of orientation of the film was found. The tear was not so large as to connect two openings 44.

Permeability: 10cc/cm²/ sec

Comparative Example 2

Anti-rewetting layer 40: Uniaxially oriented film of nylon

Elongation at break: 45%

Thickness: ~~25~~: 25 μ

Shape of opening 44: Funnel-shaped, but a large tear was found in the direction of orientation of the film.

Two openings 44 were connected because of the tear.

Permeability: 15cc/cm²/ sec